

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PRS-01 NSC-05

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 INRE-00 DODE-00 PA-01

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DRAFTED BY EA/K:EHURWITZ:FLW

APPROVED BY EA/K - EHURWITZ

EA/P - MSMITH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, KS, US

SUBJECT: KIM SANG-KUN CASE: PRESS GUIDANCE

1. DEPARTMENT DECEMBER 8 PREPARED FOLLOWING GUIDANCE REGARDING PRESS REPORTS FROM SEOUL QUOTING "HIGH ROKG OFFICIAL" TO EFFECT THAT KIM SANG-KUN BEING HELD BY USG AGAINST HIS WILL:

QUESTION: REPORTS FROM SEOUL SAY THAT KOREAN OFFICIALS ARE DEMANDING THE RETURN OF ONE OF THEIR EMBASSY OFFICERS WHO IS REPORTED TO BE SEEKING ASYLUM IN THIS COUNTRY. THE REPORT SAYS THE ROKG BELIEVES IT HAS NO GROUNDS FOR BELIEVING MR. KIM CHOSE FREELY TO STAY IN THE U.S. WHAT CAN YOU SAY ABOUT THIS REPORT?

ANSWER: MR. KIM SANG-KUN CHOSE FREELY TO SEEK TO REMAIN IN THE U.S. AND THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN FULLY INFORMED OF THIS. THEREFORE, THERE IS NO BASIS FOR STORIES LIKE THIS

QUESTION: HAVE KOREAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAD ACCESS TO MR. KIM, AS THE SOVIETS HAD ACCESS TO THE MIG 25 PILOT

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BELENKO?

ANSWER: THE KOREAN EMBASSY HAS ASKED FOR ACCESS TO MR. KIM.

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HOWEVER, THUS FAR, MR. KIM HAS REFUSED TO SEE ANY REPRESENTATIVES OF HIS GOVERNMENT.

QUESTION: ISN'T THIS UNUSUAL? DON'T OFFICIALS SEEKING ASYLUM IN THE U.S. HAVE TO MAKE THEIR VIEWS KNOWN TO THEIR GOVERNMENT?

ANSWER: THIS IS ALWAYS A DECISION THE INDIVIDUAL INVOLVED MAKES FOR HIMSELF.

2. GUIDANCE WAS USED IN NOON BRIEFING IN RESPONSE TO A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS BASED ON SEOUL STORIES. ROBINSON

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL ASYLUM, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
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**Drafter:** EHURWITZ:FLW  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Review Authority:** KelleyW0  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
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**TAGS:** PINT, KS, US, (KIM SANG-KUN)  
**To:** SEOUL  
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